
The Gristmill Gazette

Jerusalem Mill Village Newsletter Summer 2023



P.O. Box 237, Kingsville, MD 21087

www.jerusalemmill.org

410-877-3560

Scheduled Events

Saturdays, now through October 21st – The Lee Gallery in the Jerusalem Mansion continues to offer an art exhibition featuring Ephraim Rubenstein’s paintings and pastels, held over from the October 2022 grand opening due to its popularity (see the Summer-Fall 2022 issue of the newsletter).

Joining the art exhibition is a ceramics exhibition of figures, pottery and lidded vessels by ceramicist Richard Holt. See the article on page 6 for more information.

Sunday, July 16th - Concert by the Falls, 6 PM to 8 PM – “Charlie Zahm” – Charlie has become one of the most successful performers on the Celtic festival circuit, weaving magical moments of Scottish and Irish history for the listener and viewer. He also performs period North American music from the 18th and 19th centuries.¹ The “Loaded Lyfe” ice cream truck will be available to provide refreshments for purchase.

Sunday, July 30th – Family Fun Day, 4 PM to 6 PM - Activities are included in the price of the “Bad with Names” concert tickets:

- Silly Goose & Val – children’s puppeteer and performing artist
- Face Painting by Micki
- Living History Colonial Games by Kathy & Ken
- Strolling Magic Acts by Bill Chambers

Bad With Names concert, 6 PM to 8 PM – “Bad With Names” is a premier Baltimore-based modern/alternative rock cover band with a taste in music that is as diverse as its band members. In 2010, “Bad with Names” was voted “Best Local Band” in a Maryland Capital Gazette (Anne Arundel County, MD) readers’ poll. In 2013 and 2014 they were voted as ‘Runner Up’ for ‘Best Local Band’ in Baltimore Magazine.² The “Loaded Lyfe” ice cream truck will be available to provide refreshments for purchase. See announcement on page 8.

Saturday, August 5th – Jerusalem Mill Tournament joust, starting at noon, in the jousting field behind the stone bank barn on Jericho Rd. Free admission.

Sunday, August 6th - Concert by the Falls, 6 PM to 8 PM – “Great Train Robbery”, The kings of Classic Rock. They have entertained audiences for over 35 years, with their classic smokey southern sound.³

¹ <https://www.charliezahm.com/About.html>

² <https://www.bwnmusic.com/>

³ <http://www.greattrainrobbery.com/>

Saturday, August 12th - Second Saturday Serve volunteer day, 9 AM to 12 PM. Come help us with a variety of tasks to maintain, repair and preserve the Jerusalem Mill Village. We'll provide the tools and some refreshments. There's no need to register in advance. Just come Saturday morning, sign in, and we'll put you to work! Meet at the green shed at the end of the driveway next to the mill.

Sunday, August 13th - Concert by the Falls, 6 PM to 8 PM – “Rich and the Roadrunners” – The band plays a wide variety of music (50's, 60's, 70's, 80's, rock, country, ballads, etc).⁴ The “Loaded Lyfe” ice cream truck will be available to provide refreshments for purchase.

Saturday, September 2nd – MJTA Memorial Tournament joust, hosted by the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association, starting at noon, in the jousting field behind the stone bank barn on Jericho Road. Free admission.

Saturday, September 9th – Vintage and antique sale – 8 AM to 2 PM. Looking for some 19th and 20th century farm tools, household goods, small furniture, books, etc.? Come to our vintage and antique sale on the mansion grounds and browse the wide selection. If you have any items you'd like to donate, please call us on 410-877-3560 to arrange to drop them off. 100% of the proceeds from the sale will be used for preservation, restoration and/or maintenance of the historic Jerusalem Mill Village.

Saturday, September 9th – Tentative rain date for postponed jousting tournaments.

Saturday, September 9th - Second Saturday Serve volunteer day, 9 AM to 12 PM. Come help us with a variety of tasks to maintain, repair and preserve the Jerusalem Mill Village. We'll provide the tools and some refreshments. There's no need to register in advance. Just come Saturday morning, sign in, and we'll put you to work! Meet at the green shed at the end of the driveway next to the mill.

Sunday, September 17th - Concert by the Falls, 2 PM to 4 PM – “Chesapeake Concert Band” – The final performance of the 2023 summer concert series features this *free performance*. This Baltimore-area community band presents a storytelling concert of programmatic symphonic music, tone poems, TV shows, movies, and more! No admission fee! The “Loaded Lyfe” ice cream truck will also be available to provide refreshments for purchase.

Saturday, September 23rd – Amateur Jousting Club Championship Joust, starting at noon, in the jousting field behind the stone bank barn on Jericho Road. Free admission.

Saturday, October 7th – Lecture and book signing in the Jerusalem Mansion, featuring Michael Olmert, author of “Kitchens, Smokehouses, and Privies – Outbuildings and the Architecture of Daily Life in the Eighteenth-Century Mid-Atlantic”. Learn about the many types of outbuildings that were important parts of 18th century domestic life, and get a glimpse of some of the specific outbuildings within the Jerusalem Mill Village. More detailed information is available on page 6.

Saturday, October 14th - Yard Sale, 8 AM to 2 PM. We'll have a wide variety of household goods, books, DVDs, tools, equipment, toys, hardware, supplies, furniture, etc. Nothing has been held over from the last yard sale! If you have any items to donate, call the Visitor Center at 410-877-3560 to arrange for drop-off. Please, no chemicals, food, towels or bedding. Regular yard sale items will not be pre-priced; you can take whatever you want, and make a cash donation in whatever amount you think is appropriate. 100% of the proceeds go toward the preservation, restoration, maintenance,

⁴ <https://www.mdparty.com/performers/default?id=12413>

repair and daily operations of the Jerusalem Mill Village. This year the sales will be curated – only usable items will be accepted and for sale.

Saturday, October 14th - Second Saturday Serve volunteer day, 9 AM to 12 PM. Come help us with a variety of tasks to maintain, repair and preserve the Jerusalem Mill Village. We'll provide the tools and some refreshments. There's no need to register in advance. Just come Saturday morning, sign in, and we'll put you to work! Meet at the green shed at the end of the driveway next to the mill.

In case of inclement weather, please check our web site for cancellations. Any changes to this schedule due to weather will also be posted on our FaceBook and Instagram pages.



The concerts are made possible through donations from our sponsors and members, a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council through the Harford County Cultural Arts Board, and with support from Visit Harford Maryland and BrightView Senior Living.



In the Spotlight:



Happy 175th Birthday, Sam

This month, we celebrate the 175th birthday of Samuel Oliver McCourtney, long-time owner-operator of the village general store. Sam was born on July 14th, 1848, in Pennsylvania, the son of Samuel and Matilda McCourtney. At the age of 21 Sam's father passed away and shortly after that he moved to Upper Falls, Maryland, to work on a farm for Jacob and Eliza Gibson. Four years later, his mother passed away. At the age of 31, Sam married his first wife, Mary Barbara Singer, on February 24, 1880. Nearby Singer Road and the Singer Post Office were named after Mary's family. In August of 1886 they had a daughter named Edna Catherine McCourtney. Mary passed away on July 26, 1891, and two years later Sam married Emma Parker, who was 10 years younger than him. Shortly after Sam turned 49, Emma and Sam welcomed the birth of their daughter, Alice F. McCourtney. When Alice was only four years and four months old, Emma passed away. By 1910 Sam had married his third wife, Rachel May Parker (16 years younger than Sam), and had adopted another daughter, according to the 1910 census (perhaps Rachel's daughter?).

Within the Jerusalem Mill Village, Sam was apparently as well-known as any member of the village's founding family, the Lees, and judging by the comments we've heard from visitors who knew him when they were children, he was well liked and well respected. Personal accounts came from a variety of sources. Perhaps the source who knew him best was his granddaughter Mary Silling (daughter of Edna Catherine [McCourtney] Lewis), who shared some of her memories of her grandfather and his store at the annual dinner of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill in 1999. Mary Silling was a big help to the Friends of Jerusalem Mill to recreate the general store as it was in the 1930s. Mary told the 1999 dinner guests that "I remember the front door – didn't have a knob but a latch. A bell rang when you opened the door. There were showcases on both sides, a large stove in the middle, and a bench on the right-hand side. Yard goods, thread, etc. was in the showcases on the right. Candy was in the showcase on the left. There was counter space on both sides. On the left counter there was a small scale and a larger scale, also a big round of cheese; they sliced off what you wanted...I remember the desk and a cabinet with pigeon holes for mail..." The mail center was there because Sam was also a postmaster.

In an interview of local resident Charles Edward Creswell Sr., on February 28, 1995, Charles recounted some of his memories of times he and his brothers would visit Sam McCartney and his general store: "As usual in those kinds of places, we'd listen to whatever commerce took place back and forth. There would usually be anywhere from 4 or 5, to a half-dozen farmers from around, who would sit there around the store, for several hours sometimes, talking about the times, and what they were doing, how they're doing it, state-of-the-union so to speak...things of that sort. And, we boys used to pick up some odd stories sometimes of things they had done. I can recall a few which we tried – weren't very funny to us at the time, some of them – but later, we can laugh at them." Charles then told of tying the tails of two oxen together to see what they would do when taken out into the field still attached, and the time they tied a red ribbon on the tail of a rooster and watched him run to try to get away from the ribbon that was following him!



Above: Sam McCartney

Perhaps one of the most fascinating stories about Sam McCartney was how he celebrated his birthday every year, by walking 15-18 miles from Jerusalem (as the village was called after 1895) to Baltimore. In Baltimore he would visit produce suppliers, friends and politicians. He continued this tradition at least through his 88th birthday, which became so noteworthy that there were newspaper articles written about it in 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1936.

Here's some more interesting facts about Samuel Oliver McCartney:

- For a "diversion", he played the fiddle.
- In 1880 he was appointed census taker for Harford County.
- In 1886 he was an alternate at the Harford County Republican Convention in Belair.
- In 1887 he was appointed to represent Harford County on the State Central Committee.
- In 1894 he was appointed postmaster of the Singer post office.
- He was appointed postmaster of the Jerusalem post office in March 1906.
- In March, 1931, how wrote a letter to the editor that was published in the Bel Air Times, sharing the history of some of the mills of Harford County, focusing about 1/3 of the article on Jerusalem Mill and its millers.

Sadly, Sam passed away on April 21st, 1939, at the age of 90. Funeral services were held at his residence in Jerusalem, on April 24th at 2 PM, and he was interred at Mountain Christian Church.



New Living History Schedule

Thanks to our growing volunteer staff, we've been able to expand our hours of operation in the Visitor Center – Museum. Now visitors can view the artifacts and get a wealth of information from our docents four days per week. Here's the updated living history schedule for the entire village:

Sundays – 1 PM to 4 PM. Visit the Blacksmith Shop (18th-19th century smithing), General Store (1930s displays and an exhibit of the 1864 raid during the Civil War), Joinery-Textile shop (18th-19th century woodworking, tape weaving and other colonial textile-related activities), Miller's House (18th-19th century open-hearth cooking), Wheelwright ghost frame, Grist Mill Visitor Center – Museum (local artifacts, diorama and scale models, millworks, trail information). You can also walk to or drive through the covered bridge.

Mondays – 1 PM to 4 PM. Visit the Grist Mill Visitor Center – Museum (local artifacts, diorama and scale models, millworks, trail information). You can also walk to or drive through the covered bridge.

Fridays – 1 PM to 4 PM. Visit the Grist Mill Visitor Center – Museum (local artifacts, diorama and scale models, millworks, trail information). You can also walk to or drive through the covered bridge.

Saturdays – 1 PM to 4 PM. Visit the blacksmith shop (18th-19th century smithing), general store (1930s displays and an exhibit of the 1864 raid during the Civil War), Jerusalem Mansion (Lee gallery and 18th-19th century architecture), wheelwright ghost frame, Grist Mill Visitor Center – Museum (local artifacts, diorama and scale models, millworks, trail information). The Visitor Center – Museum also has colonial toy demonstrations on the first through third Saturdays of each month. You can also walk to or drive through the covered bridge.



TV Productions at Jerusalem Mill

Jerusalem Mill Village was the destination for Marty Bass from WJZ TV, Channel 13, in Baltimore, twice this month. On June 29th, Marty and cameraman K2 came to the village to introduce the Jericho Covered Bridge, one of only three remaining covered bridges still in operation in the state. He was joined by Betsy Keithley, President of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, and Rich Albright, Vice President and Curator, both of whom shared the history of the bridge and highlighted the village. The visit was part of an ongoing feature called “Where’s Marty?”, that aired in three short segments. You can view two of those segments at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dk9o2RtzLwl>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qD4MZwAMUzs>



Pictured left to right: Marty Bass, WJZ Reporter; Rich Albright, V.P. Friends Of Jerusalem Mill; Betsy Keithley, President, Friends of Jerusalem Mill.

Earlier in the month WJZ shot another few “Where’s Marty” segments with the Amateur Jousting Club of Maryland, on our jousting field in front of the bank barn, and interviewed some of the jousting champions as jousters demonstrated the sport in the background. You can view two of those short segments at:

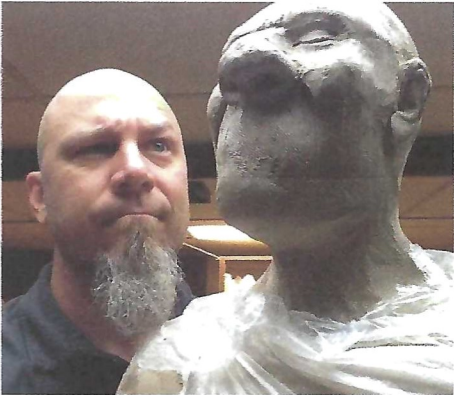
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SzkiPPo6PtA>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NfnNnJKqbk

On June 12th, Odyssey Studios filmed a series of videos in the village for a production of the Maryland Office of Tourism. The videos, which are 2-4 minutes in length, showcase the various attractions, sites and activities visitors can see/do while driving along the byways within the state.

This new series will be part of their Horses & Hounds Byway, which should be available by the end of the summer. Filming within the village included several of our historic interpreters, with scenes filmed in the mill, blacksmith shop, miller's house, mansion and general store. The videos will appear on the Maryland Office of Tourism website, YouTube page and social media channels.



New Lee Gallery Exhibit



The Lee Gallery in the Jerusalem Mansion is proud to introduce the ceramic works of Richard J. Holt. Mr. Holt is chair of the ceramics department at Towson University and co-creator of Claymonster Pottery in Baltimore, Maryland. He has also taught at The Potter's Guild and Baltimore Clayworks. Community engagement is a big focus for Rich, which includes empty bowls projects, community firings with local colleges and any project where students and community can come together. Rich puts his work into two categories: Work for exhibition that includes figurative forms that are wheel thrown and altered; and the Claymonster Pottery line which allows him to stay a kid forever.

Mr. Holt's sculptures on display and for sale in the gallery include figures, pottery and lidded vessels. The gallery is open Saturdays from 1 PM to 4 PM, and is located in the Jerusalem Mansion, 2807 Jerusalem Road, Kingsville, MD, in the heart of Jerusalem Mill Village.



Lecture and Book Signing

The Lee Gallery is also pleased to announce the next presentation in its lecture series, on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 2:00 PM in the Jerusalem Mansion, 2807 Jerusalem Rd., Kingsville, MD. Professor Michael Olmert, from the University of Maryland, will give an illustrated lecture on the amazing preserved architecture of Jerusalem Mill, including its usefulness and symbolism for the people who once lived and worked there, or who came there to trade or shop.

Olmert's book *"Kitchens, Smokehouses, & Privies"* (Cornell Univ. Press, 2009) covers eight basic types of sophisticated and well-made small buildings: kitchens, smokehouses, laundries, privies, dovecotes, dairies, ice houses, and lawyers or doctor's office – buildings that once filled the back gardens of nearly every Tidewater mansion in the Middle Atlantic colonies and states – and coincidentally changed many green, ornamental gardens into mini-industrial estates.

Mr. Olmert has spoken frequently on "The Invention of Colonial Williamsburg", and he's written *"The Official Guide to Colonial Williamsburg"* (CWF, 1986-2016), *"The Smithsonian Book of Books"* (Smithsonian Institution, 1992), and more. His television writing has won three Primetime Emmys. He's written 80 TV docs, as well as 5 books, 7 plays, 3 feature films, an IMAX film, and over 200 articles, essays, and reviews. In 2005, he was inducted into the University of Maryland Alumni Hall of Fame. Be sure to join us for a very informative lecture that has a very direct connection to the historic Jerusalem Mill Village.



New Displays

July is the month in 1864 when our general store was raided by a confederate cavalry unit led by Major Harry Gilmor during the Civil War. The soldiers stole \$1,000 worth of horses, food, clothing and other supplies. In today's dollars, that would amount to about \$19,370! We continue to exhibit information and artifacts about the raid, in a museum room in the McCourtney building. We'll also mark this occasion by taking a look at different aspects of life during that time, with displays of mid-1800s women's attire in several buildings throughout the village, and a special display of Civil War era medical equipment and supplies in our Visitor Center – Museum. Be sure to stop in and learn more about life, medicine and conflict in the mid-1800s.



Introducing Our Volunteers

With each edition of the newsletter, we try to introduce you to some of the volunteers who generously give up their time to help us continue our 38-year tradition of preserving, restoring and maintaining our historic village and providing entertainment and educational opportunities through living history. In this edition we'll introduce you to two of our members of the Board of Directors.

Although Betsy Keithley is the new President of the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, she is certainly not new to volunteering. Prior to coming to the village, she volunteered at the Hays House Museum in Bel Air, and served on the Board for Concord Point Lighthouse in Havre de Grace. She has been volunteering in our village for the past 21 years, and has served as a member of our Board of Directors for 8 years. She is also an organizing member of the Harbor of Grace Chapter, Daughter's of the American Revolution, where she served in various officer positions, and as the State liaison for the Children of the American Revolution. She is currently serving as the chapter President for the Herman Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century.

All of that volunteer work sounds like a full-time job, but Betsy actually has a full-time job working for the United States Property and Fiscal Office, which oversees all federal funding and property for the Maryland Army National Guard, where she has been employed for thirty-four years. She is currently serving as the Supply & Services Division Chief, overseeing installation-level logistics for all of the units within the Guard.

Betsy learned about Jerusalem Mill Village from a fellow living historian, and fell in love with the mission. Her goal and vision for the Friends of Jerusalem Mill is to finish with ongoing restoration and reconstruction projects, develop engaging literacy programming for children, work with volunteers to create one-day mini historic events, and most importantly use technology to expand accessibility to our buildings. Betsy attributes our success at making history memorable to the many dedicated volunteers.

Justina "Tina" Allen is one of our newest Board members, having been elected to the Board in 2022. Tina is currently employed as the Chief, Budget and Contracts Division, at the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, where she serves as the principal staff advisor to the Commander and others. Prior to her current position she served as the Director of Business Operations at the U.S. Army Public Health Center. Holding a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Baltimore, she has been working for the Army in various positions since 1989. She is also a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers.

JERUSALEM MILL Sunday July 30, 2023

Family Fun Day 4-6PM Concert in the Meadow 6-8PM

Come join us for Family Fun in the Meadow:

Silly Goose and Val



Face Painting by Micki



Strolling Magic by Bill Chambers

Tinsmithing by Henry

Living History colonial games by Ken & Kathy



**Bad
with
Names
Band**

Free Family Fun with paid concert admission (\$15pp general; \$10 members, seniors 60+, military, children 12-15yo; FREE children under 12) Bring picnic, blankets, chairs and enjoy the wonderful evening. Loaded Lyfe Ice cream truck for yummy purchases.

Family Fun only 4-6pm admission \$10 per family

Thanks to our Sponsors

We are sincerely grateful to our sponsors for their generosity, and support of our mission! We encourage all of our subscribers and visitors to patronize our sponsors' quality services and products. Please let them know that you saw their ad in this newsletter, and that you visited or contacted them because of their support to Jerusalem Mill.

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